

EPI Update for Friday, July 1, 2005  
Center For Acute Disease Epidemiology  
Iowa Department of Public Health

*Items for this week's EPI Update include:*

- **West Nile Virus Returns to Iowa**
- **Mosquito and Tick Borne Diseases in Iowa - Summer 2005 Newsletter**
- **Fireworks Safety**
- **Update From the Front Lines of Polio Eradication in Cameroon**
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**West Nile Virus Returns to Iowa**

Two dead birds found in two Iowa counties have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV), marking a return to Iowa of the virus, which sickened 23, including two deaths, in 2004. The University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory performed the confirmatory testing. The counties where the birds were found are Clarke (blue jay) and Linn (crow).

So far this year, no humans or horses in Iowa have been confirmed with the virus. Since West Nile first appeared in Iowa four years ago, it's been found in every county in Iowa, either in humans, horses, or birds. To access the complete press release, go to <http://idph.state.ia.us/>. There you will also find a link to a fact sheet on mosquito repellents.

For information on specimen collection and testing go to:

<http://www.uhl.uiowa.edu/services/diseases/mosquitoborne/wnv/index.html>

**Mosquito and Tick Borne Diseases in Iowa - Summer 2005 Newsletter**

The summer 2005 version of the Vector-borne Diseases in Iowa newsletter can now be found on IDPH's website at:

[http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/vbd\\_newsletter.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/vbd_newsletter.pdf). Hard copies of this document will soon be sent out to physicians across the state. The newsletter has information on both mosquito and tick borne diseases and has travel information, contact information and Web sites for more information.

**Fireworks Safety**

In 2003, 9,300 people were treated in U.S. emergency departments for fireworks-related injuries. Typically, two-thirds of injuries from fireworks in the United States occur in the days surrounding the July 4th holiday.

**Quick Facts**

- Almost half of these injuries occurred among children ages 14 years and younger.

- Males sustained about 72 percent of all injuries.
- Hands and fingers (26 percent), eyes (21 percent), and head and face (18 percent) were the parts of the body most frequently injured.
- More than half of the injuries involved burns (63 percent).
- Injuries were most commonly associated with firecrackers (24 percent), rockets (18 percent), and sparklers (21 percent).
- Sparklers were associated with the majority of injuries for children under five.

For more information on fireworks-related injuries, see:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4924a7.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/fworks.htm>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/july4/4thjuly.html>

For additional details on eye injuries due to fireworks for the University of Iowa, see

<http://www.uihealthcare.com/news/news/2003/06/30fireworks.html>

## **Update From the Front Lines of Polio Eradication in Cameroon**

“I have just finished my first mission in the field. As you remember I was working in the Far North province of Cameroon. During our visit we receive the feedback from the WHO in Younde that another case of Poliomyelitis wild virus was confirmed. The case has been found in one of the health center that we visited. This center is located in a village, which is half Cameroonian and half Nigerian. The population can decide if they want to have the Cameroonian or the Nigerian nationality.

With this information we went back to the center to conclude the investigation. We invited again the mother and the child who live on the Nigeria side of the village. It was extremely interesting to examine the child, three years old, with both lower limbs unfortunately paralyzed. The mother is the second wife of a gentleman who shares the household with another brother who has three wives. In total in the household there are two men, five women and at least five children below 5 years of age. None of the children have been vaccinated for poliomyelitis.

The mother was explaining to us that the husband refused to vaccinate the children because he thought that the vaccine gives impotence. Unfortunately we discovered that even the second born of this mother was affected by poliomyelitis and he is paralyzed. The mother had no idea about the disease and it was extremely interesting to see her reaction while we were explaining that the oral vaccine could have protected both children. She promised to us that she will go back to her family and she will try to convince the husband to allow the children to be vaccinated. She seems extremely motivated. If the children will be vaccinated, I will consider it already a great achievement during my mission.”

Sincerely,

Luca Flamigni

Epidemiology Intelligence Service Officer, CDC

Stationed in Iowa, temporarily on loan to the World Health Organization for polio eradication efforts

### **Be an Informed Traveler and Stay Healthy: Animal Bites**

Recently, CADE consulted on the case of a college student who was bitten on the shoulder by a spider monkey while on vacation in Mexico. Fortunately, spider monkeys are New World monkeys, so exposure to Simian B virus is not a concern in this case. (Old World monkeys such as macaques carry Simian B virus, a herpes virus that can cause a rare, fatal and untreatable meningoencephalitis).

Possible exposure to rabies virus was definitely a concern because it was not possible to trace the origin of the spider monkey and the monkey was not available for rabies testing. Wildlife, including nonhuman primates such as monkeys and apes, can have rabies virus in their saliva for an unknown period of time before showing clinical signs of rabies, thus these animals cannot be quarantined and watched for signs of rabies. Dogs, cats, and ferrets will show clinical signs of rabies or die from the disease within 10 days if the virus was in their saliva at the time the bite occurred. Thus, a 10-day quarantine for dogs, cats, and ferrets after one of them bites a human is possible.

Lessons learned: 1) always avoid contact with nonhuman primates and other wildlife; 2) if an animal bites you or a family member, note what type of animal it is and where you are when the bite occurs. This information will be used in determining what medical recommendations and care is indicated.

Consult your healthcare provider and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Travelers Health Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/> to learn about common diseases and required or recommended immunizations for specific destinations

### **Meetings:**

#### **Governor's Conference for Public Health, Barnraising V: Building Iowa as a Health Community**

Remember that the deadline for early registration for the Governor's Conference for Public Health, Barnraising V: Building Iowa as a Health Community is July 1. The conference has a strong focus on community projects covering a wide range of public health issues. The conference brochure has been mailed out and is also available on the web. Registration materials are at the same site.

See [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/common/pdf/conferences/barnraising\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/common/pdf/conferences/barnraising_brochure.pdf).